Uniform Notice for Funding Opportunity (NOFO) 06/01/2019

| | Data Field | |
|-----|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. | Awarding Agency Name: | Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs |
| 2. | Agency Contact: | Connie Watson |
| | | connie.watson@illinois.gov |
| | | 217-782-6153 |
| 3. | Announcement Type: | ☑ Initial announcement |
| | | ☐ Modification of a previous announcement |
| 4. | Type of Assistance Instrument: | Grant |
| 5. | Funding Opportunity Number: | 1177-175 |
| 6. | Funding Opportunity Title: | Veterans Scratch-Off Lottery Ticket Program |
| 7. | CSFA Number: | 497-00-1177 |
| 8. | CSFA Popular Name: | Vets Cash Lottery Ticket |
| 9. | CFDA Number(s): | Not applicable |
| 10. | Anticipated Number of Awards: | Unknown |
| 11. | Estimated Total Program Funding: | \$1,000,000 |
| 12. | Award Range | \$25,000 - \$100,000 |
| 13. | Source of Funding: | ☐ Federal or Federal pass-through |
| | | ⊠ State |
| | | ☐ Private / other funding |
| | | Mark all that apply |
| 14. | Cost Sharing or Matching | ☐ Yes ☒ No |
| | Requirement: | |
| 15. | Indirect Costs Allowed | ⊠ Yes □ No |
| | | |
| | Restrictions on Indirect Costs | ☐ Yes ☒ No |
| | | If yes, provide the citation governing the restriction: |
| 16. | Posted Date: | June 1, 2019 |
| 17. | Closing Date for Applications: | General announcement. There is no specific application |
| | | period. |
| 18. | Technical Assistance Session: | Session Offered: ⊠ Yes □ No |
| | | Session Mandatory: ☐ Yes ☒ No |
| | | Specify date and time: As Requested |
| | | Provide link to registration, if applicable: |
| | | Veterans.Cash@illinois.gov |

Agency-specific Content for the Notice of Funding Opportunity

A. Program Description

Since 2006 the Illinois Lottery Veterans Cash Program has provided nearly \$13 million for almost 300 organizations to help veterans throughout Illinois. All proceeds from the ticket sales are deposited into the Illinois Veterans Assistance Fund, making it the first Illinois Lottery instant scratch-off ticket for which 100% of the new proceeds are dedicated to support Illinois veterans.

The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs (IDVA) awards these funds in the form of Vets Cash Grants. On a quarterly basis, IDVA's Veterans Cash Grant Committee reviews applications and awards grants to groups that help address:

- 1. PTSD
- 2. Homelessness
- 3. Health Insurance Costs
- 4. Disability Benefits
- 5. Long Term Care
- 6. Employment and Employment Training

1. Program Objectives and Goals

- The expected outcome is a decrease in veterans needing assistance with PTSD, homelessness, health insurance costs, long-term care, disability benefits, and employment.
- Services provided with increase the amount of benefits received by veterans thus improving their quality of life.

2. Deliverables

- In order to provide assistance to veterans, the applicant will perform services that will increase the overall number of veterans receiving benefits. The applicant will submit results of this on a quarterly basis.
- The applicant must provide milestones including timing and scope of expected performance. The applicant will submit results of this on a quarterly basis.
- The applicant must relate financial data to performance accomplishments of the award. The applicant will submit results of this on a quarterly basis.

3. Performance Measures

- All grants are subject to report performance information from the state grant award. The applicant will use the Periodic Performance Reporting (PPR) template to report all Deliverables and Performance Measures accomplished during the reporting period. The PPR shall be submitted quarterly through veterans.cash@illinois.gov.
- All grants are subject to report financial information from the state grant award The applicant will use the Periodic Financial Reporting (PFR) template and must relate financial data to performance accomplishments of the award. The applicant will report additional data to include itemization of grant expenditures during the reporting period including receipts or other documents to verify payment. The applicant shall provide summary documentation by line item of actual expenses incurred for the purchase of goods and services necessary for conducting program activities. The PFR shall be submitted quarterly through veterans.cash@illinois.gov.
- The applicant shall use generally accepted accounting practices to record expenditures and revenues. Expenditures shall be recorded in the applicant's records in such a manner as to establish an audit trail for future verification of appropriate use of agreement funds. All financial record keeping on the part of the applicant shall be in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles consistently applied.
- o The applicant will report the project use of remaining funds.
- The applicant will report the progress of the program.

B. Funding Information

1. Criteria

- The Vets Cash Lottery Ticket Program is a state funded program. In FY20, The Department anticipates the availability of approximately \$1,200,000 in total funding. The anticipated number of State awards will be approximately 25 30 with an average award range of \$25,000 \$100,000 which will be dependent upon the availability of funding and number of qualified applicants. The grant period is continuous with no specific end date. The release of this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) does not obligate the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs to make an award. Services may not be provided until a contract is fully executed by the Department.
- All grants are subject to the terms of the Illinois Grant Funds Recovery Act [30 ILCS 705]. The grant program may provide up to a maximum of 100% funding assistance on total approved project costs. Maximum grant awards for health insurance costs are limited to 20% of the total funds appropriated. A \$100,000 limit is established per annual project grant. No grants from the Vet Cash Lottery Program shall be made for construction that is not an expansion of an already existing program facility.
- Statutory formulas are not applicable to this program.
- Rules and regulations are enforced limiting the use of funds for their intended purpose of the program via reporting, on-site reviews and monitored on a quarterly basis.
- Specific contract deliverable and expenditures of grant funds shall also adhere to 2 CFR 200, as applicable, and all applicable Federal OMB circulars.

2. Allowable Expenditures

Grant assistance may be obtained for the following items:

- a. Research or services related to veterans PTSD or TBI, including but not limited to such things as:
 - 1) Contract payment to physicians or psychologists
 - 2) Laboratory researchers and/or lab fees
 - 3) Contract labor
 - 4) Job trainings
 - 5) Computer software purchase/lease
 - 6) Necessary office equipment and supplies
 - 7) The Department will consider, on a case-by-case basis, building lease arrangements when no government-owned facility is available and:
 - (a) State statue or local ordinance profits a unit of local government from entering into a rental Agreement; or
 - (b) Other circumstances beyond control of the unit of local government or nongovernmental tax exempt organization prohibit other arrangements.
- b. Programs designed to prevent, eliminate or alleviate Veterans' Homelessness, including such things as:
 - 1) Renovation of existing shelters to better serve homeless veterans
 - 2) Expansion of existing shelters for homeless veterans
 - 3) Contact payment to counselors or caseworkers
 - 4) Training and education
 - 5) Employment assistance
 - 6) Necessary supplies
- c. Veterans Disability Benefits, such as:
 - 1) Assistance in obtaining benefits
 - 2) Counselina
 - 3) Prosthetics
 - 4) Job training
 - 5) Accessibility of the home of a disabled veteran
 - 6) Automotive modifications to accommodate the veterans' disability
- d. Long-term Veterans Care, including:
 - 1) Remodeling

- 2) Supplies
- 3) Equipment
- 4) Clothing
- 5) Medicine
- 6) Things necessary for the morale, welfare and recreation of the veteran being served
- e. Health Insurance Costs for Veterans
- f. Veterans Employment and Employment Training

3. Unallowable Expenditures

- Veteran Service Organizations receiving funding pursuant to Section 25 of the Department of Veterans Affairs Act [20 ILCS 2805/25] shall be ineligible for grant funding from this program for Veteran Service Officers during the same period of time covered by the Section 25 award and Veterans Service Organizations that elect to accept a grant from this program for Veterans Service Officer funding are ineligible for Section 25 awards for the year covered by this program.
- No assistance from this fund shall be used to supplant existing moneys that the Department currently expends for the purposes listed in section 1 above. All grants that are to benefit the Illinois Veterans Homes shall be limited to 50% of the total expenditures made by the grantee on behalf of a Veterans Home.
- Project costs for which grant funding is sought cannot be incurred by the project applicant until after grant approval notification. Costs incurred prior to Department approval are ineligible for grant assistance.
- Property acquired or developed with program grant assistance may not be converted to a use that would deny use for veterans as provided by the terms of the grant agreement without prior Department approval.

4. Disqualification

No grant may be approved:

- For any amount in excess of \$100,000.
- o To an applicant that is not a governmental entity or a tax-exempt entity.
- To an applicant that is non-compliant on a previous grant, including failure to supply a proper concluding report.
- o To an applicant delinquent on any payments to the State of Illinois.
- o For any purpose other than research or service relating to the program objectives.
- for a service contract to any applicant who will not be performing the services within the State
 of Illinois.
- For travel costs for out-of-state travel.
- For salaries, except for a Veterans Service Organization that meets the provisions of Section 25(c) of the Department of Veterans' Affairs Act [20 ILCS 2805/25] and secures Federal veteran-related benefits for veterans and/or their survivors, or for specific services authorized in the grant agreement.

5. Authorizing Statues and Regulations

The authorizing statues and regulations for this funding opportunity include, but are not limited to:

- o Illinois Lottery Law, 20 ILCS 1605/21.6
- Illinois Grant Funds Recovery Act, 30 ILCS 705
- o Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs ("IDVA") Act, 20 ILCS 2805
- o Grant Accountability Transparency Act ("GATA"), 2 CFR 200
- Administrative Rules for Veteran's Scratch-Off Lottery Grant Program, 95 III. Admin. Code
 125

C. Eligibility Information

1. Eligible Applicants:

- Government agencies and tax-exempt entities currently providing veteran's assistance of similar assistance to non-veterans and wishing to expand to veteran's assistance are the only organizations eligible for grants under this program. To support the tax-exempt eligibility, proof of 501(c) (3) status as determined by the Internal Revenue Service must be provided.
- A government entity or tax-exempt entity may apply for a grant but will not be eligible for a
 grant award until the entity has pre-qualified through the Grant Accountability and
 Transparency Act (GATA) Grantee Portal, https://grants.gov@illinois
- Registration and pre-qualification are required annually.
- During pre-qualification, verifications are performed including a check of federal SAM.gov Exclusion List and status on the Illinois Stop Payment List. The Grantee Portal alerts the entity alerts of "qualified" status or informs how to remediate a negative verification (e.g., Inactive DUNS, not in good standing with The Secretary of State). Inclusion on the SAM.gov Exclusion List cannot be remediated.
- Applicants that fail to meet the eligibility requirements will result in the State Awarding Agency returning the application without review or, even though an application may be reviewed, will preclude the State Awarding Agency from making a State Award.

2. Cost Sharing, Matching or Cost Participation:

Applicant requirements - None

3. Indirect Cost Rate:

- In order to charge indirect costs to a grant, the applicant organization must have an annually negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (NICRA). There are three types of NICRAs: a) Federally Negotiated Rate. Organizations that receive direct federal funding, may have an indirect cost rate that was negotiated with the Federal Cognizant Agency. Illinois will accept the federally negotiated rate. The organization must provide a copy of the federally NICRA. b) State Negotiated Rate. The organization may negotiate an indirect cost rate with the State of Illinois if they do not have a Federally Negotiated Rate. If an organization has not previously established in indirect cost rate, an indirect cost rate proposal must be submitted through State of Illinois' centralized indirect cost rate system no later than three months after receipt of a Notice of State Award (NOSA). If an organization previously established an indirect cost rate, the organization must annually submit a new indirect cost proposal through CARS within six months after the close of the grantee's fiscal year. c) De Minimis Rate. An organization that has never negotiated an indirect cost rate with the Federal Government of the State of Illinois is eligible to elect a de minimis rate of 10% of modified total direct cost (MTDC). Once established, the De Minimis Rate may be used indefinitely. The State of Illinois must verify the calculation of the MTDC annually in order to accept the De Minimis
- All grantees must complete an indirect cost rate negotiation or elect the De Minimis Rate to claim indirect costs. Indirect costs claimed without a negotiated rate or a De Minimis Rate election on record in the State of Illinois' centralized indirect cost rate system may be subject to disallowance.
- Grantees have discretion and can elect to waive payment for indirect costs. Grantees that
 elect to waive payments for indirect costs cannot be reimbursed for indirect costs. The
 organization must record an election to "Waive Indirect Costs" into the State of Illinois'
 centralized indirect cost rate system.

4. Other:

There is no limit to the number of applications an applicant may submit under the announcement, however the maximum annual amount limit is \$100.000.

D. Application and Submission Information

1. Request Application Package:

Application guidelines are provided throughout the announcement. Attachments will be made available in user/printer friendly format and may be found on the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs website. Please click on the corresponding link: https://www.illinois.gov/veterans. Additional copies may be obtained by contacting the person listed below:

Connie Watson

Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs

Grants Department, POB 19432

833 S. Spring St.

Springfield, IL 62794-9432 Phone: 217-782-6153

Email: connie.watson@illinois.gov or veterans.cash@illinois.gov

2. Content and Form of Application Submission

All applications MUST include the following two mandatory forms/attachments in the order identified below:

> IDVA State Grant Application (Mandatory Attachment #1)

a. Proposal Narrative:

The Proposal Narrative must be completed in Microsoft Word and be formatted to print on 81/2 X 11 inch paper using 12-point type and at 100% magnification. With the exception of Letterhead and Stationary for Letters of Support, the entire proposal should be typed in black ink on white background. The program narrative must be typed single-spaced, with one inch margins on all sides. The entire proposal must be sequentially page numbered and there is no page limitation. The Proposal Narrative should include the following:

- Project Title
- Abstract: In 90 160 words, briefly describe the who, what, and why of the project and the results expected. Please do not use abbreviations.
- b. Select Funding category:
 - Veterans Homelessness
 - Veterans Health Insurance Costs
 - Veterans Disability Benefits
 - Veterans Long-term Care
 - Veterans PTSD and TBI
 - Veterans Employment and Employment Training
- c. Administrative Capacity:
 - Describe the organizations capacity to support the project. As appropriate, this may include internal controls such as policies for procurement (e.g., bids required, purchase orders), procedures for hiring, collection development strategies, inventory management or travel rules.
 - Describe the qualifications of key staff to be involved with this project.
- d. Project Description:
 - Describe the overall project from beginning to end. Include details about methods, activities, services to be provided, how they will be implemented, and how items budgeted for will be used. Include a broad statement about the long-term expectation of what should happen as a result of your program.
 - If appropriate, explain the roles of partnering organizations.
- e. Target Audience and Need:
 - Explain the need for this project or a problem the project addresses.
 - Identify the specific target audience that will benefit from, participate in or use the services provided.
 - If applicable, explain promotion, recruitment and/or outreach strategies to encourage involvement by the target audience or use of the end product.

- f. Project Schedule: Provide a timeline specifying months when key actions (e.g., planning, activities, instruction, events, evaluation, data collection) will take place.
- g. Objectives and Methods:
 - Objectives Propose two to four objectives that will be achieved as a result of this project. Include statements describing the results to be achieved, and the manner in which they will be achieved. You will need to identify the goals and objectives of the program component or intervention you plan to evaluate. The Goal serves as the foundation for developing your program objectives. The Objectives can be Outcome oriented:
 - Outcome Objectives specify the intended effect of the program in the target population or end result of a program. The outcome objective focuses on what your target population(s) will know or will be able to do as a result of your program/activity.
 - Objectives are different from listing program activities. Objectives are statements that describe the results to be achieved and help monitor progress towards program goals.
 - Methods For each Objective, describe the specific method, activity, or service to be implemented toward achieving the desired outcome. Activities are the actual events that take place as part of the program.

h. Evaluation

- What strategies will be used to assess the success of the project? The following categories will be used to determine the success of the project:
 - Survey
 - Review of Administrative Data
 - Interview/Focus Group
 - Participant Observation
 - Other
- Explain how the results will be used to evaluate the project
- > IDVA Budget (Mandatory Attachment #2)
- 3. Dun and Bradstreet Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number and System for Award Management (SAM). Each applicant (unless the applicant is an individual or Federal or State awarding agency that is exempt from requirements under 2 CFR § 25.110(b) or (c), or has an exception approved by the Federal or State awarding agency under 2 CFR § 25.110(d)) is required to:
 - a. Be registered in SAM before submitting its application. To establish a SAM registration, go to www.SAM.gov and/or utilize this instructional link: How to Register in SAM from the www.grants.illinois.gov Resource Links tab.
 - b. Provide a valid DUNS number in its application; and
 - c. Continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal, Federal pass-through or State award or an application or plan under consideration by a Federal or State awarding agency. It also must state that the State awarding agency may not make a Federal passthrough or State award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable DUNS and SAM requirements and, if an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time the State awarding agency is ready to make a Federal pass-through or State award, the State awarding agency may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a Federal pass-through or State award and use that determination as a basis for making a Federal pass-through or State award to another applicant.

4. Submission Dates and Times.

a. This funding opportunity is a General Announcement that is open for a period of time with no specific due dates for applications. The Grant applications are reviewed by the Committee on a quarterly basis. Grant applications may be submitted anytime, however, applications will only be considered by the committee in the quarter in which they were received. (i.e., grant applications received in the first quarter of the year will not be considered until the second quarter of the year).

- b. For your records please keep a copy of your email submission with the date and time the application was submitted along with the email address to which it was sent.
- 5. Intergovernmental Review. This funding opportunity is not subject to Executive Order 12372.

6. Funding Restrictions.

- a. Pre-award costs are not reimbursable.
- b. To be reimbursable under the IDVA Uniform Grant Agreement, expenditures must meet the following criteria:
 - 1) Be necessary and reasonable for proper and efficient administration of the program and not be a general expense required to carry out the overall responsibilities of the applicant.
 - 2) Be authorized or not prohibited under Federal, state, or local laws and regulations.
 - 3) Conform to any limitations of exclusions set forth in the applicable rules, program description or grant award document.
 - 4) Be accorded consistent treatment through application of generally accepted accounting principles appropriate to the circumstances.
 - 5) Not be allocable to or included as a cost of any other state or federally financed program in either the current or a prior period.
 - 6) Be specifically identified with the provision of a direct service or program activity.
 - 7) Be an actual expenditure of funds in support of program activities.

7. Submission Requirements

Applicants are encouraged to submit a complete electronic version of their Uniform State Grant Application, Proposal, Budget, and Program Budget. Each applicant should have access to the internet. It is the responsibility of each applicant to monitor the website and copy with any instructions or requirements relating to the NOFO.

- a. Documents must be emailed to veterans.cash@illinois.gov. On the subject line of the email address, applicants will need to type the following information:
 - organization name, funding opportunity number, program contact name If you have trouble emailing the document due to the full size, please utilize the MCS file transfer utility located at https://filet.illinois.gov/filet/PIMupload.asp. Please follow the instructions to attach your application.
- If the internet is not available, the application can be requested by mail at the Illinois
 Department of Veterans Affairs, Grants Department, 833 S. Spring St., Springfield, IL 627949432.
- c. If you should experience any technical difficulties submitting the Uniform State Grant Application, Proposal, Budget, and Program Budget, please contact:

Connie Watson
Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs
Grants Department, POB 19432
833 S. Spring St.
Springfield, IL 62794-9432

Springfield, IL 62794-9432 Phone: 217-782-6153

Email: connie.watson@illinois.gov or veterans.cash@illinois.gov

E. Application Review Information

1. Criteria.

The Grant Authorization Committee will perform a Merit Based Review of the Competitive Grant Applications in accordance with 2CFR Section 200.204. The review will be based solely on criteria identified in the grant application, budget and previous grant history. The evaluation will be based on a numerical rating and will contain at a minimum:

- a. A scoring Rubric to reflect the evaluation criteria.
- b. Evaluation Committee members must have an individual score sheet which is completed independent of the whole committee.
- c. A summary score sheet that shows the comparative scores and resulting finalist for award must be completed.
- d. Any significant or substantial variance between evaluator scores shall be reviewed and documented, including revision of individual scores.

2. Review and Selection Process.

- a. Funding decisions will be based on the quality of the completed application as scored through the Grant Authorization Committee Review. The following factors are used by the committee in evaluating and recommending project applications for funding assistance consideration:
 - Projects providing services to the currently unserved or underserved population of veterans:
 - Projects located in high areas of demand or readily accessible to major population of veterans;
 - Projects proposing innovative research or benefits;
 - Projects for which long-term operations and maintenance capability is clearly demonstrated; by the applicant and the degree to which the applicant relies upon program grant funding;
 - The applicant's record of providing benefits to veterans or the applicants record of providing services to non-veterans similar to the proposed services to be provided to veterans and the applicants understanding of veterans' service and issues.
- b. In addition to the Grant Authorization Committee Review, consideration will be given to past performance, if applicable.

3. Anticipated Announcement and State Award Dates

- a. The awarding of grants will be quarterly on a competitive basis. Final award decisions will be made by the Director of Veterans Affairs.
- b. If an award decision is made, the entity must complete the following pre-award requirements:
 - Grantee pre-qualification
 - o Conflict of Interests and Mandatory Disclosure
 - Fiscal and Administrative Risk Assessment
 - o Programmatic Risk Assessment
- c. The Department reserves the right to negotiate with successful applicants to cover unserved areas that may result from this process or modify the overall budget request to meet the funding availability.

F. Award

1. State Award Notices

- Applicants that are not selected to receive grant funds will receive a non-funding notice via email or letter to the Authorized Representative on the Uniform Application for State Grant Assistance.
- Applicants recommended for funding under the NOFO will receive a "Notice of State Award" (NOSA) will be issued to the Authorized Representative on the Uniform Application for State Grant Assistance. The entity must complete the following pre-award requirements: (a) Grantee pre-qualification, (b) Conflict of Interest and Mandatory Disclosures Statement, (c) Fiscal and Administrative Risk Assessment, and (d) Programmatic Risk Assessment. The NOSA will identify additional grant award requirements that must be met before a grant award can be executed such as specific funding terms and specific conditions resulting from the pre-award risk assessments. The NOSA will be provided through the Grantee Portal.
- A letter notifying a grant applicant of their selection is not an authorization to begin performance.

 A Notice of Award signed by a Chief Financial Officer or equivalent is not the authorization document to begin performance. Reimbursement for services will not take place without a signed, executed contract from the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs.

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements.

The NOSA will be distributed by the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs prior to the issuance of the Uniform Grant agreement. Awardees should carefully review the terms and conditions of the award and should be prepared to comply with the Indirect Cost Rate Requirements as applicable.

3. Reporting

- Recipients are required to submit a variety of reports which are due at specific times during the life cycle of an award. All reports must be accurate, complete, and submitted on time.
- Recipients are required to provide each quarter an IDVA Periodic Financial Report and an IDVA Periodic Performance Report through vets.cash@illinois.gov.
- In addition, at the end of the award period, recipients must submit an IDVA Final Financial Report and an IDVA Final Performance Report that is cumulative over the entire award period. The final reports are due 30 days after the end of the award.
- Once the grant is awarded, recipients will be expected to have data collection and data management policies, processes, and practices that provide reasonable assurance that they are giving the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs high quality data. At a minimum, recipients should have policies, processes, and practices that address the following five aspects of data quality for themselves and for subrecipients (if applicable):
 - the data measures what it intends to measure
 - the data reported is complete
 - the recipient collects data in a consistent manner
 - the recipient takes steps to correct data errors
 - the recipient actively reviews data for accuracy prior to submission.
- Failure to submit accurate, complete, and timely required reports may affect the recipient's ability to secure future IDVA funding.

G. State Awarding Agency Contact(s)

Questions should be sent to the contact person listed below:

Connie Watson Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs Grants Department, POB 19432 833 S. Spring St. Springfield, IL 62794-9432

Phone: 217-782-6153

Email: connie.watson@illinois.gov or veterans.cash@illinois.gov

 All email correspondence should be sent to <u>veterans.cash@illinois.gov</u> or <u>connie.watson@illinois.gov</u> and <u>kathy.davis@illinois.gov</u>.

H. Other Information, if applicable

- 1. This is an on-going program.
- 2. The Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs is not obligated to make any State Award as a result of this announcement.

3. The Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs' Vets Cash website is: https://www2.illinois.gov/veterans/programs/Pages/veterans-cash.aspx

- Mandatory Forms
 1. Program Narrative using the IDVA FY20 Grant Application Template
 2. Budget and Budget Narrative using the FY20 IDVA Budget Template